

Application No. 10/588,311  
Amendment dated January 17, 2008  
Reply to Office Action of July 20, 2007

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Docket No.: 80315(302753)

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

## Claims 1-5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) A needle-like member that constitutes a conductive contact which electrically connects a first object, the needle-like member comprising:  
a columnar member having

- a first end and a second end;
- a through hole that connects the first end to the second end; and
- a contact member configured to electrically contact with the first object and arranged at the first end,

wherein the through hole tapers from the first end toward the second end.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) The needle-like member according to claim 6, wherein the second object is a circuit that generates and transmits an electrical signal to be supplied to the first object.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) The needle-like member according to claim 6, wherein the second object is a circuit board that includes a circuit for generating and transmitting an electrical signal to be supplied to the first object.

## Claims 9-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) The needle-like member according to claim 6, wherein the contact member is located near a periphery of the columnar member in a longitudinal direction to come in contact with a periphery of a connecting electrode of the first object.

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**Claim 12 (Currently Amended)** A conductive contact that electrically connects a first object to a second object, the conductive contact comprising:

a first needle-like member that includes a columnar member having  
a first end and a second end;  
a through hole that connects the first end to second end; and  
a contact member configured to electrically contact with the first object and  
arranged at the first end; and

a second needle-like member that is arranged to electrically connect to the first needle-like member, and slide in the through hole of the first needle-like member; and

a spring member that is fixed to the first needle-like member and surrounds an outer surface of the columnar member, and applies an elastic force on the second needle-like member present in the through hole.

**Claim 13 (Previously Presented)** The conductive contact according to claim 12, wherein the second object is a circuit that generates and transmits an electrical signal to be supplied to the first object.

**Claim 14 (Previously Presented)** The conductive contact according to claim 12, wherein the second object is a circuit board that includes a circuit for generating and transmitting an electrical signal to be supplied to the first object.

**Claim 15 (Previously Presented)** The conductive contact according to claim 12, wherein the through hole has a constant diameter.

**Claim 16 (Previously Presented)** The conductive contact according to claim 12, wherein the through hole tapers from the first end toward the second end.

**Claim 17 (Previously Presented)** The conductive contact according to claim 12, wherein the second needle-like member includes

a support member that is slidable in the longitudinal direction while being in contact with an inner surface of the through hole; and

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a contact member that is integrally formed with the support member, and configured to electrically contact with the second object.

**Claim 18 (Currently Amended)** A conductive contact unit comprising:

a conductive contact including

a needle-like member that includes a columnar member having a first end and a second end, a through hole that connects the first end to the second end, and a contact member configured to electrically contact with an object; and

a spring member surrounding an outer surface of the columnar member that biases the needle-like member in a direction perpendicular to the object; and

a conductive contact holder that includes a holder hole for accommodating the conductive contact.

**Claim 19 (Previously Presented)** The conductive contact unit according to claim 18, further comprising a circuit that generates and transmits an electrical signal to be supplied to the object.

**Claim 20 (Previously Presented)** The conductive contact unit according to claim 18, further comprising a circuit board that includes a circuit for generating and transmitting an electrical signal to be supplied to the object.

**Claim 21 (Previously Presented)** The conductive contact unit according to claim 18, wherein the through hole has a constant diameter.

**Claim 22 (Previously Presented)** The conductive contact unit according to claim 18, wherein the through hole tapers from the first end toward the second end.

**Claim 23. (New)** A needle-like member that constitutes a conductive contact which electrically connects a first object to a second object, the needle-like member comprising:

a columnar member having a first end and a second end, and a through hole that connects the first end to the second end; and

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a contact member configured to electrically contact with the first object and arranged at the first end,

wherein the columnar member and the contact member are integrally formed.

**Claim 24 (New)** The needle-like member according to claim 23, wherein the second object is a circuit that generates and transmits an electrical signal to be supplied to the first object.

**Claim 25 (New)** The needle-like member according to claim 23, wherein the second object is a circuit board that includes a circuit for generating and transmitting an electrical signal to be supplied to the first object.

**Claim 26 (New)** The needle-like member according to claim 23, wherein the through hole has a constant diameter.

**Claim 27 (New)** The needle-like member according to claim 23, wherein the through hole tapers from the first end toward the second end,

**Claim 28 (New)** The needle-like member according to claim 23, wherein the contact member is located near a periphery of the columnar member in a longitudinal direction to come in contact with a periphery of a connecting electrode of the first object.

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